INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
ELECTRONIC NEWS LETTER

"Improving Customer Awareness through better Communications"

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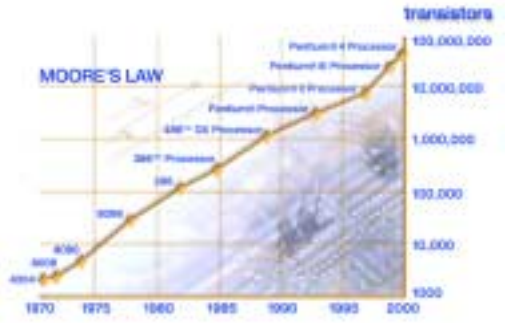

Moore's Law – What does it mean to you and Computer Technology? –

It seems as though every time you turn around some computer manufacturer announces a faster more powerful microprocessor. It seems as though it was yesterday when we were introduced to the Personal Computer (PC). A gentleman who knew something about technology, especially microprocessors, was Gordon Moore, Co-Founder of Intel Corporation.

In 1965, Mr. Moore wrote a paper documenting some observations he made about advancement in computer processing power while working for Fairchild Semiconductor. The paper became what is known today as Moore's Law. Moore's Law centers around the observed phenomena of computer processor speeds. Moore observed that computer processing capacity doubled every 18 months. According to Intel, it is more precise to say Moore's Law states that the number of transistors you can fit on a sliver of silicon doubles every two years. During a thirty year timeframe the number of transistors increase from 1,000 (Intel 4004) to 100,000,000 (Pentium IV).

What does this all mean? Well think about this in 1974 when the Intel 8080 Microprocessor came out its clock speed was 4.7MHZ (million). Today the new Intel Pentium IV microprocessor clock speed is roughly 1.5GHZ (Billion). Based on recent news release from Intel Corporation we can expect to see by 2007 a 20 GHZ microprocessor on the market. This will obviously increase the performance of both microcomputer operating systems as well as applications software. The processor performance speeds being delivered on personal computers today is faster than most mainframe computers manufactured 5-10 Years ago.

How does this effect me? Well most of our customers ask when is the right time to by a computer. "I don't want to by a out of day system." Since it would appear to Moore's Law is still relevant today, by the time you get you system home or shortly after, it will already be considered old technology. The good news is that the costs of microcomputers technology has decreased tremendously over the years. Think of the first time you bought a calculator 20-25 years ago. You probably paid $300-600 dollars. Now you can buy a comparable calculator with probably more computational functions for a faction of what you paid back then. This trend will continue over time as advancements in technology continue. Consider Moore's Law as a measuring stick for the advancement future of technologies and where they are headed tomorrow.

DITSCAP - Department of Defense (DOD) Information Technology Security Certification and Accreditation Process (DITSCAP):

Earlier this year we published an article about DOD's effort to revamp the way it addresses information security and assurance. Under the old program Commands and organizations would only address information systems, corporate data processed by these systems, as well as how one would recover from a catastrophic event requiring mobilization to a remote site to continue processing. For the most part the only organizations effected were information technology organizations who identified requirements for addressing key operational areas as well as the functional areas needing access to critical data / systems in times of emergencies.

The requirements imposed by DITSCAP extend far beyond IM organization and a few selected organizations needing access to corporate systems / information. DITSCAP will in fact involve everyone in the Center in addressing security and corporate information assurance needs to comply with Federal regulations.

Information Management in concert with Security and Law Enforcement, are in the process of acquiring training to prepare for the planning and implementation of DITSCAP for the Center. In the coming months IM and its customers will be identifying critical systems, security vulnerabilities, processes for internal controls and monitorship, as well as

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personnel who will be engaged to executing these processes to safeguard of corporate infrastructure.

Our customers are reminded that information security and assurance is everyone's responsibility. We ask for your assistance and cooperation in the coming year to help us put in place a DITSCAP security program that will best serve the Center's mission and you our customers. In the coming months we will provide you with more information as it becomes available.

WINDOWS 2000 – What is it? Why do I need it? When will we deploy it?

Windows 2000 may be Microsoft's most stable and powerful operating system (OS) to date. While this operating system is marketed mainly to high end users in the government and commercial world there is an ever increasing number of home users moving to this OS. Outside of its increase stability, Windows 2000 offers increased security and performance.

What is it? As pointed out, Windows 2000© is an advanced operating system (OS), in a family of operating systems developed by Microsoft™ Corporation. An operating system provides the necessary communications and controls between your microcomputer hardware and software insuring that information and electrons move smoothly and efficiently from place to place. When you turn your computer on at home normally you see a Microsoft™ Windows 95, 98, ME, NT, etc., logo appear on the screen. All of these are for the most part desktop microcomputer operating systems that are designed to provide its users an environment for running a wide variety of software applications, i.e. Word, Excel, ACCESS, etc. Say you want to connect to your Internet Service Provider (ISP) using your modem connected to your computer. The OS provides the communications interface between the hardware device (modem card) and the software program used for dialing, connecting, and communicating to your ISP. In essences it is the "Air Traffic Control" mechanism of your computer. It initiates processes, controls activity, and monitors performance of your system as you use it.

Why do I need it? Customers using Windows 95 probably experienced either in the office or at home system lockups due to the "Lack of System Resources". One of the major short-comings of Windows 95 is its lack of efficient and effective memory management. As windows based programs load and terminate under the control of Windows 95, users have experienced what is known as "Memory Leakage". Memory leakage is caused by the failure of the operating system in freeing up memory allocated to programs when they exit or terminate. When this condition occurs eventually the operating system runs out of memory for loading and executing programs – requiring users to reboot / restart their system to clear up the condition. Not Good!

Though security is something you don't think of at home, Windows 2000 provides a variety of file and system security features that allow users to protect their systems. The system protection and file recovery features have come a long way from earlier operating system.

When will we deploy it? As the Corps move forward with seeking a stable desktop solution for its enterprise, Windows 2000 appears to be the operating system on which the Corps will move towards in the future. Unfortunately, many of the desktop systems from a hardware perspective, are inadequate at the present time to support Windows 2000. Though Microsoft™ claims it can run effectively one 166MHZ based platforms with 64MB of RAM, this is only a pipe dream. To run this OS efficiently will require at a minimum a 300MHZ system with 128MB of RAM. For the most part the Center has or will have in place by the end of next year sufficient resources to fully embrace this as our desktop solution. Plans call for fully deploying Windows 2000 on our desktop platforms by the end of next year. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Suggestions

If you would like to make a suggestion on how we can improve our services or would like to make a suggestion on ways to improve this letter please fill out our suggestion form. Click here